



Cultural Connections October 2023 Update

Cultural Connections, ESU 2's US Dept. of Education's Demonstration Grants for Indian Children and Youth Program's Accessing Choices in Education has begun the 2023-24 schoolyear. ESU 2, our Tribal partners from the Omaha and Winnebago Tribes and our school district partners Bancroft-Rosalie, Homer, Tekamah-Herman, Emerson-Hubbard, Pender Lyons-Decatur, and Oakland-Craig continue to provide culturally relevant student opportunities, supports, and educational choice for Native American students and their families.

The CC team continues to grow! Project Director Dr. Chris Stogdill has been joined by long-time Bancroft Rosalie school counselor Ronda Ras.

Highlights for 2023 (so far) include:

- ☐ As of September 30, 2023, there have been 358 total requests serving 475 students since the portal went live.
- ☐ Cultural Connections has contracted with Homer Community School and Bancroft Rosalie Public School for the schools to provide mentoring, tutoring, and student success services.
- ☐ Literacy resources and additional culturally relevant home resources purchased and distributed to the districts.
- ☐ Beading session at Bancroft-Rosalie, Homer and Emerson-Hubbard schools.
- ☐ Additional students have completed their Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) courses and are preparing for their certification test. They are following other students who successfully completed the coursework and exam last year.
- ☐ Eight students enrolled in Omaha Language from Nebraska Indian Community College.
- ☐ June 11-16, 38 students traveled to Washington, D.C. and participated in a Native American themed Close-Up trip.
- ☐ June 27-28, Food Sovereignty workshop allowed 28 students to learn about traditional cooking methods and recipes from Chef Anthony Warrior (Muscogee (Creek) Nation).
- ☐ June 20-23, Summer multi-day camp/mini workshops at the Neihardt Center. 58 students participated in activities including ribbon shirt/skirts making, traditional dance and song, Native cooking, moccasin making, beading, and lacrosse. Extra K-6 activities: beading, traditional games, dream catchers, and intro to gardening. Ideas & suggestions were discussed at monthly parent advisory meetings.